

MYSTERY VICTIM OF BRIDGEPORT GULDENSUPPE TRAGEDY UNKNOWN, BUT THERE ARE A FEW APPARENT CLEWS TO HER MURDERER. DEEPENS.

Police Now Searching for a Midwife Who Suddenly Leaves Town.

LAUNDRY MARK CLEW.

Coroner Believes One Crime Was Committed to Cover Up Another.

IN a dreary, shallow sheet of water known as Yellow Mill Pond, within the precincts of the city of Bridgeport, Conn., there were found on Monday afternoon and yesterday morning dismembered portions of the body of a beautiful young woman. Who she was, whence she came, how she had met her awful fate, every single detail of the tragedy to which those fragments bore mute witness, was hidden—hidden as completely as if it all had happened on another planet and the traces of the crime thrown to earth.

You who read see only the cold print of type, portraying a ghastly deed and realize, perhaps, the stern duty of a newspaper to chronicle an unhappy event. But a newspaper is not a machine; it is built up of living men with beating hearts, who must see and feel and, mayhap, the tears rise to their eyes. And all this must be stifled in order that the cold type may narrate its cold facts.

Think, however, as you read, that these facts had to be gathered by many men, whose duty it was to gaze upon the pallid features of that bodiless head, smiling even in death, and to see the morbid, curious, crooked gaze wondering upon a face that had known great suffering and had passed beyond it—and then had to delve into and speculate upon the mysteries of a heart-rending crime, whose minutest details crept into a man to his core—of all this, THINK! And you may realize the cheerlessness of the reporter's task.



SIDE AND FRONT VIEWS OF THE FACE OF THE WOMAN MURDERED AT BRIDGEPORT.
(From photographs taken especially for the Journal.)



SCENE OF THE BRIDGEPORT MYSTERY AND PEOPLE WHO FIGURE IN THE ATTEMPT TO SOLVE IT.

MIDWIFE SUDDENLY LEAVES BRIDGEPORT.

"Dr." Nancy Guilford Being Sought for in Connection with the Mystery.

The Bridgeport police, there is every reason for believing, have discovered the key that is shortly to unlock the mystery surrounding the tragic death of the beautiful young victim at the Bridgeport Morgue. The authorities spent the greater portion of yesterday looking for Dr. Nancy Guilford, a local midwife with a somewhat checkered career, who has suddenly left town.

The authorities admit that they are looking for the midwife. The greater portion of the town was devoted by Detective Arnold and Yonans to watching the house where the midwife lives. The neighbors said she had gone away early in the morning.

Whether she has gone or no appears to know and the most diligent efforts of the authorities to obtain some clue to her whereabouts have proven unavailing.

Now that Dr. Nancy is no longer to be found at her office here, the significance of the characters "G. S." written in ink on the waistband of the under-

wear found wrapped about a portion of the dismembered trunk, appears more striking. The doctors office is at No. 51 Gilbert street, and as the first letter of her surname commences with a "G" the characters may have an especial significance.

Her Clothing Identified.

It is known that Superintendent Birmingham visited the local laundries to-day, and it is asserted without official contradiction that at one of the laundries the undergarment was identified as the property of Dr. Guilford.

There is no positive proof, however, that such identification was made, but it is undeniably true that the impression prevails, and that no attempt has been made by the officials to counteract the effect such an impression naturally makes in a community where the reputation of the midwife is so well known.

Nancy Guilford's husband, known as Dr. Gill, is now serving a term in the Western State for the part he played in a malpractice case about a year ago. His wife, Nancy, was also implicated, and to escape a possible similar fate she took a surreptitious departure from New Haven, permitting her bond of \$1,500 to be forfeited. Where she went no one seemed to know.

About a month ago she made her reappearance in this city after an absence of

some time. Her presence here was remarked by many who knew of her escape from New Haven. She opened an office at her former home in Gilbert street, about three weeks ago. During the trial of her husband in New Haven it was testified that Dr. Nancy had served time in the jail at Salem, Mass., for complicity in a similar crime.

POSSIBLE CLEWS IN BRIDGEPORT MURDER.

Butcher-Surgery Done by an Expert. Possible Tell-tale Laundry Marks.

Three boys playing on the bank of Yellow Mill Pond, between 3 and 4 o'clock on Monday afternoon, found floating on the surface of the shallow water two bulky packages, containing the head and lower limbs of a woman. For the rest of the afternoon and far into the night the police dragged the waters in search of the remainder of the body, but abandoned their quest toward midnight. Shortly after day-break yesterday, however, a newsboy, crossing a bridge that spans the pond, saw another bundle, and the police, whom he summoned, were not long in finding a fourth.

And when the contents of all these bun-

dles were placed together they found that all of the body had been recovered save the internal organs. Of these there is no trace.

The body so horribly reconstructed was that of a woman who could not have been more than twenty-five years old. She probably was two or three years younger than that and slenderly fashioned. The head, which had been severed directly beneath the chin, bore no trace of violence, and the features were well preserved.

Was Apparently Handsome.

In life that face must have been fair to look upon. It was an oval face, well proportioned, and cut in clean, refined lines. Death works such a wonderful change in the human face that it is difficult to find in the rigid, waxen features such details as complexion and expression. But the features of this girl conveyed the impression that she was either of olive tint or had been sunburned prior to her sufferings, and that her disposition was a happy one.

For hours yesterday the head rested, unturned, in a bucket of embalming fluid, for all to see and there was something so serene, so contented in those features—they were even faintly smiling—that it made women cry and men get their teeth in their rage.

The eyes were dark blue, and when the lids were raised they looked amazingly life-

like. The hair was auburn, soft in texture and beautiful. Even the bedraggling influence of the water did not seem to disturb its tidiness.

So far as it was possible to gain any light upon the woman's personality from the other portions of the body, they indicated that she had been well groomed and was neat.

Manner of Death Seems Clear.

The manner of her death seems clear. Enough of the organs had been left in the body to indicate to the majority of physicians who viewed them—there were some dissenters—that the woman had undergone a criminal operation and had died of blood poisoning. Ligatures bound around the thighs almost established this as a fact. But even with this admission the mystery is as deep as ever. The absence of the digestive organs suggests poisoning, but who that would perform such awful butchery would dread above all his or her crimes the disclosure of poisoning?

The police are proceeding upon the supposition that the girl—for she was hardly more than a girl—had come to that neighborhood from some distant part, and had died as the result of unskillful treatment. The person or persons who had treated her, they think, had then cut up the body to pack in a box or trunk, but had for some reason or other changed their intention and had thrown the portions into the pond. The grounds for this supposition are these:

The dismembering of the body had been accomplished by an unskilled hand, it

had been done in the manner of surgeons. The flesh had been carefully cut to the bones and the bones saved, as is done in amputation.

The body had been cut into seven pieces: the head, the upper trunk, the lower trunk and two sections, made of each leg, and in none of them was the cut jagged or unsteady.

At the same time it was evidently not the handwork of a skilled practitioner, for on the knee there was one unsteady cut, made as if the butcher had begun it and then abandoned it for another spot.

There were various other intangible evidences visible to the physicians which impressed them strongly with the idea that the work had been done by one who had witnessed surgical operations and perhaps assisted at them, but had never carefully studied them.

The police feel positive that had she been a resident of the neighborhood her absence would have been noticed, particularly when the details of the crime became known. Already half a dozen people who knew of "missing" women have come from all parts of the country to look at the body, but have failed to recognize it. The police think, therefore, that the woman was a stranger in Bridgeport, a supposition which increases a thousand fold the possibilities of the case.

Mystery Even in the Butchery.

The careful dismemberment of the body, too, fits the plan pursued in disposing of it. Not the slightest attempt was made to mutilate the face. Any one who had ever known the girl would recognize the head as it was found in the pond. Why, then, the butchery of the body?

Unless it had been done to enable the pieces to fit into a certain space it seems superfluous. And yet there must have been a motive in it.

Each portion of the body when found was carefully wrapped in white rubber sheeting such as is used in hospitals. Next to the manner in which the cuts were made, these pieces of rubber cloth are the strongest evidence that it was a person in some way connected with the practice of surgery that committed the crime. Such a person is not a common household article, nor is it found in many stores. Physicians and trained nurses use it, and know it at a glance. Most people would mistake it for this cloth.

Another Possible Clue.

One more clue the police have, and to that they seem to attach the greatest importance. The woman's head had been thrust into a leg cut from a man's undergarment, to the waistband of which was attached a laundry tag bearing a mark that could have been either "G. S." or "G. H." With this tag, detectives from Bridgeport are scouring the country in the hope of finding some laundry that will recognize the mark.

A piece of cheesecloth nearly two feet square was found inside the packages pressed against the face in such a way that part of it filled the mouth like a gag, but the object of this was not clear.

Coroner Downs, who is a physician, asserted positively that the woman was dead at least three or four hours before her body had been dismembered, so that there was no apparent motive for gagging her.

this reputation to be entirely undeserved.

It was learned that she had been misemployed herself with James and Walter Malley, two rich young models men of New Haven. A fourth party to their revels, which were held at the elegant home of Walter Malley's father, was Blanche Douglass, a notorious woman from New York. The girl and the New York woman had spent a night with the Malley boys at the Malley residence. Traces of arsenic were found in Jennie Crainer's stomach. Blanche Douglass was the last person seen with the girl before her death.

The Malley boys and Blanche Douglass were tried for the murder, but the boys proved alibis and all three were acquitted. Nothing was ever learned to make clear the Crainer mystery.

The Mary Stannard Murder.

Rockland, Conn., also furnished a murder mystery that attracted attention from all over the country. The victim was Mary Stannard, in 1878. This girl was twenty-two years old, the daughter of a farmer. She was unmarried, but had a child, three years old, the paternity of which she would never reveal.

On September 3 Mary Stannard took a walk and went into a field for berries. Two hours later her father found her dead. She had been twice stabbed in the throat. It was also found that she had been poisoned, a large quantity of arsenic being found in her stomach.

Rev. Hiram Herbert Hayden was tried for the murder. An old woman swore she had seen him come out of the blackberry thicket a short time before the body was discovered, and a druggist testified that the day before the murder Hayden had purchased arsenic, ostensibly to kill rats. The girl's sister Susan also gave damaging testimony against the colporteur, but the jury disagreed and the case was dropped.

The third mystery occurred in 1883. The victim was Rose Ambler, the divorced wife of Norman Ambler, a cloth, roystering con- tractor. She was engaged to marry her divorced husband's cousin, Will Lewis, who had also been engaged to a seafaring man, who returned from a long voyage to find his fiancée had married Ambler. They had a quarrel before he left. Mrs. Ambler was very handsome, and only nineteen years old. Her career as a wife was not spotless.

On the night of September 2, while walking to her father's home, in Stratford, Rose Ambler was strangled and stabbed. Her body was found.

Suspicion rested on Norman Ambler, Will Lewis and a mysterious stranger, whose name after the murder attracted attention.

Every one of the three proved an alibi, and Rose Ambler's murder has never been accounted for.

The case of Adelle Gilmore in San Francisco eight years ago was so near in its features to the case of the unknown whose dismembered body was discovered near Bridgeport as to suggest that the motive was the same in the two cases. Adelle Gilmore's dismembered body was found on the beach near San Francisco. The detectives brought the case home to a Dr. West, who married in prison the nurse who was the only witness against him, and who therefore could not testify against him.

The Pearl Bryan Murder.

Probably the most famous of all such cases is the murder of Pearl Bryan, for which crime Scott Jackson and Alonzo Walling were hanged in March, 1877. She was the daughter of wealthy parents, of Greensville, Ind., and left home to visit a family living in Indianapolis.

Four days later a boy found her headless body in some bushes on a farm near Cincinnati. The body was half dressed and there was blood all around, showing that the girl had been battered before she was dead. By her shoes the body was identified.

Jackson and Walling were indicted and tried. The girl's head never was found.

While the police at this end of the continent are trying to identify the dismembered corpse found near Bridgeport on the Pacific coast, they are working on much the same sort of case. The head and an arm and hand of a woman were found in Lake Michigan, Oakland, and they are dragging and searching for the rest of the body.

MURDER MYSTERIES WITH WOMEN VICTIMS.

Connecticut Has Furnished a Large Quota of Unravaged Crimes.

Connecticut has a record for murder mysteries with a woman as a victim. The Jennie Crainer case was probably the most famous of these. She was found dead in the water off Sevin Rock near a dozen years ago. She had been drugged and assaulted.

She was only nineteen years old, beautiful, the daughter of a clear manufacturer, and had the reputation of being a model, gentle girl. But the disclosures following the finding of the body showed

CORONER THINKS ONE CRIME LED TO OTHER.

Editor of the New York Journal:

I HAVE not as yet been officially applied to by the medical examiner as to the result of his investigations, and until I learn his findings I do not care to enter into any elaborate discussion of the case. I am satisfied, however, that the victim was not murdered, but died from the effects of an operation, and that the person who treated her, alarmed at the unexpected ending, sought to cover the crime by carrying the body into sections and disposing of the remains in the river.

The fact that the severed parts were thrown into the shallow water of the Yellow Mill pond is, to my mind, conclusive proof that whoever was concerned with the disposing of the remains was, in addition to the neighborhood, otherwise he would have thrown the dismembered remains into the deep canal and beyond the Yellow Mill bridge, rather than into the basin, which at low tide would be certain to expose the evidences of the crime to the public gaze.

I am still of the opinion that the victim was a stranger, and was brought here for treatment.

C. A. DOWNS,
Coroner of Fairfield County.